

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 OMB-01 IO-12 AID-20 DPW-01 RSR-01 /128 W
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O 291220 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3314

INFO WHITE HOUSE

CIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

USDEL FRANCE

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2348

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, MARR, MASS, MCAP, MOPS,

MILI, PA, US, VN, XC

SUBJECT: THE LAOS CEASEFIRE - FIFTH WEEK

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: VIENTIANE 2146

BEGIN SUMMARY: WEEK OF MARCH 22-29 REGISTERED NO REAL PROGRESS

ON POLITICAL FRONT, WHILE ACTION ON BATTLEFIELD TAPERED

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OF TO INSIGNIFICANT LEVEL. THE NINE U. S. POWS CAPTURED IN LAOS, WHO APPEARED ON DRV'S FEBRUARY 1 LIST, WERE RELEASED MARCH 28 IN HANOI. WITH RELEASE OF NINE U. S. POWS CAPTURED IN LAOS AND RETURN OF LPF NEGOTIATOR PHOUN SIPRASEUTH ON MARCH 28, TALKS MAY GET MOVING AGAIN IN VIENTIANE: END SUMMARY

1. MILITARY: AIR AND GROUND ACTION IN LAOS CONTINUED TO SLACKEN DURING WEEK, WITH AN AVERAGE OF ONE MAJOR AND EIGHT MINOR CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS PER DAY. RLG MINDEF COUNT OF MAJOR AND MINOR GROUND ACTIONS INITIATED DURING WEEK BY BOTH SIDES TOTALS 47. KIA STATISTICS, WHICH AVERAGED 76 A WEEK BEFORE CEASEFIRE AND HIT 98 IN FIRST WEEK, HAVE DROPPED TO APPROXIMATELY 20 FRIENDLY KIA. FIGHTING ERUPTED SPORADICALLY IN SOUTH LAOS, ESPECIALLY IN THAKHEK AND KHONG SEDONE AREAS. RLG T-28 SORTIES AVERAGED LESS, AROUND 15 PER DAY, AND ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES, WHILE FLUCTUATING, TOTALED ZERO ON TWO DAYS AND FIVE "PRACTICE ROUNDS" ON ANOTHER. (COMMENT: DESPITE DROP IN ACTUAL FIGHTING, LPF HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF ALLEGED RLG AND U. S. CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. LPF NOTE VERBALE TO EMBASSY ON MARCH 26, WHICH WAS REFUSED (VIENTIANE 2240), PROVIDES GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE TENOR OF THESE ATTACKS. LPF VERBAL ATTACKS INDICATE THAT IT MAY BE TRYING TO ESTABLISH JUSTIFICATION FOR MAJOR GROUND ACTION BY THEIR FORCES IN NEAR FUTURE. END COMMENT)

2. POLITICAL: LPF NEGOTIATOR PHOUN SIPRASEUTH LEFT VIENTIANE MARCH 22 BUT RETURNED MARCH 28 AND WENT TO SEE SOUVANNA EARLY NEXT DAY. WITH BOTH LPF PLENIPOTENTIARIES OUT OF TOWN, LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN RLG- LPF CONTACTS DURING PAST WEEK. MARCH 23, DATE SET BY VIENTIANE ACCORDS FOR FORMATION OF NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU), PASSED UNEVENTFULLY. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA, IN ARMED FORCES DAY REMARKS MARCH 23 TO FAR OFFICERS, CALLED FOR UNITY IN UPCOMING ELECTORIAL STRUGGLE AND WARNED AGAINST POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS TO UPSET THE ESTABLISHED ORDER. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED TH
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
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Draft Date: 29 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730344/aaaaitfe.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EAP
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 06 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <02-Aug-2001 by maustmc, RDFRD>; RELEASED <06-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <07-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980126
Subject: THE LAOS CEASEFIRE - FIFTH WEEK
TAGS: MARR, MASS, MCAP, MILI, MOPS, PFOR, PGOV, PINS, PINT, PA, US, VN, XC
To: BANGKOK
CIA
EA
LONDON
MOSCOW
NEW DELHI

OTTAWA
PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005